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25X1A

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Morocco

DATE: 25X1A

INFO.

SUBJECT The Life of the People, New Communist
Newspaper in Morocco

DIST. 19 November 1946

25X1A

PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT

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ORIGIN

This document is hereby designated to
CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the
letter of 13 October 1975 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the

1. The Moroccan Communist Party recently started publication of a two-page weekly newspaper The Life of the People. The paper, written in simple Arabic, is printed at 70 Boulevard de la Liberte, Casablanca. Ali Yata, Secretary of the Moroccan Communist Party, is the editor of the paper and translates into Arabic articles which have appeared in the weekly Communist Party organ, Espoir.
2. Articles in The Life of the People follow the usual Communist Party line, demanding independence for Morocco in alliance with the people of France, citing cases of oppression of native workers by European employers, demanding better educational facilities, hospitals, etc. for the Moroccans and appealing for the right to organize unions, particularly for agricultural workers.
3. This newspaper is persistently anti-British and American. The Soviet Government is, however, portrayed as the true friend of oppressed peoples and as the only government able and willing to force "capitalistic" governments to give a measure of freedom to those "slaves now in their clutches". The Life of the People, although it follows the same general line as Espoir, devotes more space to local Moroccan news.
4. In the French Zone of Morocco the newspaper is distributed by Communist Party members and reaches all the large population centers. Railroad employees and employees of the Compagnie Marocaine de Transports who are Communist Party members help in the distribution of the paper. (The Communist Party has made a notable effort to recruit transport, maritime and communications workers as members of the Party.)
5. The circulation, sale or possession of this newspaper is forbidden in the Spanish Zone of Morocco. However, several hundred copies are smuggled into the Zone from Tangier every week. These copies are distributed from Tetuan by El Hadj Mohamed Benmuna, member of the Islamic Nationalist Party.

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6. Between 100 and 200 copies circulate clandestinely each week in Tangier and are distributed without cost by Mohamed Abdel-Malek, newspaper dealer in Tangier.

25X1X 7. [REDACTED] the propaganda in The Life of the People has as yet had little effect on the native Moroccans in the French Zone of Morocco, primarily because the Moslems inherently object to the Communist doctrines. However, the absence of any disparaging reference to religion and the preponderance of local news items have made the newspaper acceptable to an increasingly large section of the Moslem population.

8. Because circulation of The Life of the People is restricted in the Spanish Zone, the newspaper has had little or no effect as yet in this area.

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